

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Waukegan Public Library  
Other names/site number: Waukegan Carnegie Library  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
Illinois Carnegie Libraries  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1 North Sheridan Road  
City or town: Waukegan State: IL County: Lake  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

[Signature] DSHPD, 11-7-2013  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official: Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*For Edison H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

12-31-13  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Classical Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Limestone  
Walls: Stone, Brick  
Roof: Flat  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Waukegan Carnegie Library, designed by Patton and Miller and completed in 1903, is located on the northeast corner of Sheridan Road and Washington Street on a bluff-line in Waukegan, Illinois. Waukegan (2010 pop. 89,078) is located in the central northeast quadrant of Lake County, and is the county seat. Lake County is in northeast Illinois, and Waukegan is approximately 240 miles northeast of Springfield, the state capital. To the east of the library is the Waukegan Harbor and Metra Station, while to the west is the downtown Waukegan. The architects adapted the curved corner entrance design to the site, which makes a rear-facing L-shape; the convex wall on the L's interior complements the entrance. The design has the library facing the corner of two busy streets, allowing the community access straight from the downtown area. The library is about 5,000 square feet in the Classical Revival style. Sitting on a bluff, the building has two raised basements, which gives the building a first floor, lower level, and basement. The property has historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## **Narrative Description**

### Exterior

The structure is formed by a straight northern, western, and southern facade. The northeast facade is convex. The roof is flat with a classic style narrow cornice with dentils. The cornice is on all facades but the northern and northeastern ones. The western and southern facades of the building are constructed with coursed cut stone. The northern facade and northeast convex facade are of brick construction. The northeast facade rests on a 10' tall rough limestone foundation.<sup>1</sup> The building sits on a bluff that adds two raised basements, giving the building a first floor, lower floor and basement.

The western and southern facades have eight windows. There are two rows of four windows each, separated by a stone string course between the first floor and lower level. The top rows of windows on the western and southern facades are single hung windows topped with a transom with two lights. The windows have stone sills and no ornamentation. The windows below the string course on the west and south facades are single hung windows.

The eastern facade has five windows that follow the same pattern as the western and southern facades, with two rows of two divided by the string course. The fifth window is located near the bottom of the facade and is a smaller window than the others. The north side of the east facade contains a narrow window on the lower level. The northern facade is windowless and only contains a pipe that was added to drain water, which is non-contributing.

The northeast convex facade, or rear of the building, has twenty windows, one row of ten on the first floor and another on the lower level. The top row of ten windows has four windowpanes, two fixed and two hoppers. One window on the bottom row has been bricked off. Each window has a stone sill and has no ornamentation. The rear of the building also has a doorway at ground level that leads into the basement furnace room.

The main entrance is located in the southwest corner of the building. Following the Classical Revival style, the entrance has four columns topped with Ionic capitals. These columns are placed along curved wall sections. The entry door is reached by four stone steps. The door is oxidized bronze metal and in its original opening. There are two tall narrow windows, one on either side of the doorway between the columns. The windows have five lights topped by transoms. Above the main doorway is a sign that states "Carnegie Building-One North Sheridan Road," which is not original to the building. Above the entryway the cartouche contains the date the building was built, and the frieze contains the name of the building carved into the stone. The pilasters are capped with stone ball finials above the cornice line. Next to the entrance above the limestone foundation, one of the stones is engraved with, "Erected by Andrew Carnegie A.D. 1903."

### Interior

The Waukegan Library's interior plan follows Patton and Miller's desired plan for libraries, with modifications made to fit the corner entrance.<sup>2</sup> This plan allows the primary entrance to open to a small hall which has a staircase leading up to the first floor. The staircases in the entrance hall are stone. The hand railings are original. The floors at the bottom and top of

<sup>1</sup> Jeffery D. Bruce, Statement of Effect for Carnegie Library, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Highways, October 1983.

<sup>2</sup> Kruty, 120.

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the staircase have decorative tile. A large convex room, above grade, is located diagonally across from the main entrance and is accessed by a set of stairs in the center of the hall.

Entering the first floor from the entrance hall, the delivery room is approximately 17'x8' with two clustered columns and a domed ceiling. Two smaller rooms, the librarian's room and reference room, are accessed from the delivery room. Both of these rooms are 11'x11'. The general reading room and children's reading room on the wings are both 33'x22'. These two side wings have their original fireplaces. The convex stack room is 29'x18'. The right wing on the first floor is missing the fireplace mantle, leaving only a total of two fireplace mantles for three total fireplaces. In the stack room, there is a skylight on the ceiling to allow a greater amount of light inside. This was added at an indeterminate time. Paint is faded and chipped away on the walls and ceilings, littering the floor with paint chips. All the rooms have wood paneled doors, wood baseboards and trim, and plaster walls. The two doors on the main entrance to the delivery room have a glass pane framed in wood. Above and around the doors on this floor there are glass panels.

The doors are solid hardwood and are all original, with the original door frames in place. Window frames are still in place as well, but many of the windows are boarded. The walls are missing plaster, revealing the original construction underneath. The ceiling is in the same condition as the walls, revealing wooden beams. The original hardwood flooring is intact throughout the first floor.

The lower level is accessed off of a horseshoe shaped staircase below the main entrance. Some rooms on the lower level show signs of stripped tile. Similar to the first floor, the walls, ceilings, and flooring are in the same condition. There is a storage closet (6'x5') underneath the stairs at the landing. The northwest wing has three rooms. Nearest to the staircase was a men's bathroom (11'x11'), followed by a reading room (16'x11'), and a larger reading room (22'x22'). The southeast wing has two rooms. The women's bathroom (11'x11') was found near the stairs, and then a reading room (33'x22'). The reading room still has the original fireplace. The large convex room (29'x18') on this floor has a small room (7'x3') in the east corner. The intact doors on this floor are wood paneled with glass.

The staircase to the basement level is wooden and original. The floor of the basement is stone and is intact.

#### Integrity

The Waukegan Carnegie Library has excellent integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While the building has been cleared out of material objects that made it a library, such as book shelves, books, desks, etc., it possesses most of the design elements of the original Patton and Miller plan.

Very few alterations have been made to the library since its construction. In 1935, the original wooden staircase in the entrance hall was replaced with stone to meet fire safety codes. At an indeterminate time during the period of significance, the stone steps leading from the sidewalk to the front entrance were changed. When the Carnegie Preservation Committee was involved in cleaning out the library during the 1990s, they removed the furnace and water heater from the basement. Nearly all of the radiators were removed as well, with only a few left behind. At an indeterminate time, two walls where the bathrooms were on the lower level were removed, which reveal open areas. Walls in the basement were demolished as well. These changes have been minimal and have not adversely impacted the library's integrity.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1903-1963  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
1903  
1935  
1951

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**  
Normand S. Patton  
Grant Miller  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Waukegan Carnegie Library meets the registration requirements of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Illinois Carnegie Libraries*. The Waukegan Carnegie Library is applicable under criteria A and C. The Library is historically significant because it came out of the efforts of a community who needed public library service, and even after the period of significance the library has remained valuable to the community. The library provided free public library service for the community in Waukegan for over half a century before the new library was constructed to provide more space for books and patrons. The Waukegan Carnegie Library meets the Multiple Property document's criteria for listing under criteria C for architectural significance and a representative of the Classical Revival Style, designed by the architectural firm of Patton & Miller. The Library's period of significance began in 1903, when the building was built, and ends in 1963 to fit the 50 year requirement. In 1966 the building ceased being used as a library.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Education

According to the Multiple Property Document *Illinois Carnegie Libraries*, "To be eligible under criterion A Carnegie library buildings should have been built between 1900 and 1918 and should have provided library service to the community." (Sec. F, P.26)<sup>1</sup> The Waukegan Carnegie Library served the public as more than just a place to loan out books, but to also go and learn. The need for a free community library in Waukegan dates back to the late 1800's, and the Carnegie Library was important for the community in fulfilling that need with its first fully functional free public library to service the community. In Waukegan the desire for library services began in 1845 when a group of citizens organized the first reading room, called "The Little Fort Reading Room and Library Association."<sup>2</sup> Eventually, the community would develop the need for a public library. The *Waukegan Weekly Gazette* in 1858 described the wish for a public library as a community joint stock library. The plan was to "have a Public Library in Waukegan established on such basis as to give every individual access to a large library at a very cheap rate."<sup>3</sup> The books to be loaned out came from personal collections. The owners of the books would write their name on the book, and were allowed to withdraw their book from the library at any time. The location of this library was a room in the Court House "because of this

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed discussion about the history of Carnegie Libraries in Illinois, please refer to the cover document, *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document, Illinois Carnegie Libraries*.

<sup>2</sup>An annual library report of the Waukegan Public Library from April 30, 1953, completed by former Waukegan librarian Ruth W. Gregory, was invaluable to this nomination for the research and information she provided on library services for the community prior to 1903. Ruth W. Gregory, *1953 Waukegan Public Library Annual Report: On books and reading in Waukegan from the Little Fort era to the atomic age* (Waukegan, IL, 1953), 1.

<sup>3</sup>*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, July 10, 1858.

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building being so accessible to the public generally.”<sup>4</sup>

A few months later that same year, another model for a library was proposed. The *Gazette* reported that citizens wanted to open “a Reading Room with a Chess and Checker Club combined.”<sup>5</sup> The proposal was to have “fifty members pay an entrance fee of one dollar each and a monthly due, of from 30 to 40 cents, or maybe 10 cents weekly.”<sup>6</sup> The paper opined that this concept would be accepted by the citizens, and would allow the city to “very soon enjoy what all towns should possess, a good reading room.”<sup>7</sup> In 1864, the *Gazette* informed the unaware public that there was a circulating library. The paper reported that the selection was “very choice, consisting of some of the latest and most popular literature of the day,”<sup>8</sup> and for ten cents instead of investing money on the purchase of books, “that small sum will purchase the reading of any volume in the lot, provided it is not kept over a week.”<sup>9</sup>

In 1866, the Young Men’s Association of Waukegan wanted to establish a public library and reading room. The *Gazette* recounted that “the want of a public library and Reading Room, having long been felt in this community, a number of young men determined to take some steps to supply the want, [and] any resident of Lake County of fourteen years upward may become a member.”<sup>10</sup> The fee was to be three dollars for men and two dollars for women. Two months later the *Gazette* informed the public of the library’s opening, stating that the library would be open three days during the week, “on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings from seven till nine o’clock, and Saturday afternoons from one till four.”<sup>11</sup> From 1866 to 1878 the *Gazette* would print lists of books acquired by the association, but due to financial troubles the library would eventually be closed in 1881.<sup>12</sup>

The move towards a truly free public library began in 1877. With the support of a large majority of property holders in Waukegan, a petition started by the Temperance Union was presented to the City on August 6, 1877 asking them to charge a tax for the establishment of a free City Library. In an effort to get this plan moving, The Ladies Union and the Red Ribbon Club worked together, and on September 1, 1877 opened a free Public Reading Room.<sup>13</sup> An article in the *Gazette* from January of 1878 discussed the concept of the reading room being free, and the effects that it had on the community. The paper stated “we are pleased to observe a large, and latterly, a constantly increasing class who are occasionally found within its domain. The room is attractive...light, airy, warm, cheerful, and in every way pleasant, it draws within its walls those who have felt for years the lack of a resort.”<sup>14</sup> In 1877, the *Gazette* published that a survey had done by committee determining “that the holders of seven-eighths of the taxable property in Waukegan were willing to be assessed to establish and maintain a city library.”<sup>15</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> *Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, October 27, 1858.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> *Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, July 30, 1864.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> *Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, September 29, 1866.

<sup>11</sup> *Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, November 24, 1866.

<sup>12</sup> Gregory, 3-4.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 4.

<sup>14</sup> *Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, January 12, 1878.

<sup>15</sup> *Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, May 11, 1878.

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In 1885 the Caxton Publishing House proposed to establish a circulating library in Waukegan. The *Gazette* article relaying this proposal stated that the Caxton Publishing House was, "one of the large Chicago houses in that line...the scheme is to get one hundred subscribers or more, charging each one dollar per year of membership, collecting fees for two years after the library is delivered...it is to be the property of the subscribers, or of the town."<sup>16</sup> In May of 1885, the *Gazette* reported that the Caxton Library had been established. It stated that "as soon as new subscribers can be secured new books will be added also by renewals of subscriptions, so that there is now an opportunity of securing a splendid and growing library."<sup>17</sup>

In 1894, a group of women formed the Sesame Club of Waukegan which decided to help establish a public library, aided by the *Waukegan Daily Sun* and the *Waukegan Daily Gazette*.<sup>18</sup> Due to the efforts of the Club, in July of 1895 the Waukegan Library Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois.<sup>19</sup> The Sesame Club decided that it was the duty of the City of Waukegan to now provide for the library's support, and by June 1898 the City had taken steps to establish a free library, accepting as a gift the library and effects of the Waukegan Library Association.<sup>20</sup> At this point in Waukegan's library history, the need for a location to house all of the books, shelving, tables, etc., that the City had acquired from the Club and Library Associated was finally acknowledged.

In February of 1901, Mr. A.K Stearns, publisher of the *Waukegan Daily* and *Weekly Sun* and member of the Waukegan Library Association wrote to Andrew Carnegie initially requesting \$25,000 to build a library, and later another \$2,500 to complete the building.<sup>21</sup> The city received a reply from Carnegie's secretary telling the City that as long as they provided a site for the library, and supported it with tax money equal to ten percent of the gift, they would receive the money.<sup>22</sup> On March 18, 1901 the City Council passed an ordinance approving the taxes for maintenance to the building and also secured the site on Sheridan Road.<sup>23</sup> The construction started in 1902 with Patton & Miller selected as architects for the project and the unique corner entrance design was selected for the project. The cornerstone was finally laid on October 2, 1902, and the building was dedicated a year later on October 1, 1903. This date marked the beginning of the free public library in Waukegan.

Between 1903 and 1965, new innovations were implemented within the library to make it easier for the community to access books, as well as check them out. By 1935, it was reported in the *News-Sun* that, "the growth in the library patronage is a convincing fact that the library has become an essential asset in the lives of the people of Waukegan."<sup>24</sup> In 1935, changes to the interior of the building that were completed. The same article of the *News-Sun* recounts that "one of the most drastic changes meets the eye upon first entering the library. The 32-year-old wooden staircase...is replaced by an attractive self-supporting fire-proof one. It is constructed of concrete and finished with cement and stone composition."<sup>25</sup>

<sup>16</sup>*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, April 4, 1885.

<sup>17</sup>*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, May 2, 1885.

<sup>18</sup>Gregory, 5.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., 6.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., 6.

<sup>21</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, June 26, 1935.

<sup>22</sup>Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission, *Waukegan Landmarks* (Waukegan, Illinois, August 2011), 20.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid., 20.

<sup>24</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, June 26, 1935.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

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In 1939 the *Waukegan News-Sun* informed the public that the library would be open an hour earlier from then on, which would allow the community more time in the Library, Monday through Friday.<sup>26</sup> Fines for overdue books were also reduced from five cents per day to two cents per day, as well as changes to the acquisition of library cards, “for the convenience of the public.”<sup>27</sup> In 1946 there were plans for a bookmobile to reach more of the community. An article of the *News-Sun* explained that the bookmobile would “serve all parts of the city.”<sup>28</sup> Later that same year the library installed charging machines. The *News-Sun* told readers how the Waukegan Public Library was “the second of the north shore libraries to install charging machines for improved service to their patrons.”<sup>29</sup> These machines allowed for a quicker check out of books. As the library expanded its collection of books, the seating capacity remained at 63.<sup>30</sup> In terms of changes to the building, the article states that “during the almost 60 years...the building has undergone just one structural change. The steep stairway leading to the front entrance was re-built in 1951, giving the building ‘a more modern approach.’”<sup>31</sup> A *News-Sun* article from 1963 discussed the overcrowding in the Carnegie, as well as describes the building. The article states, “architecturally, the Waukegan Public Library is considered a unique specimen among Carnegie buildings... the building plunges steeply downward in three sub-basements or ‘dungeons’...so crowded are facilities that fully 50% of the entire book collection must be stored in basement areas, necessarily off limits to the public.”<sup>32</sup> Until 1965 the library served as Waukegan’s public library, but the need for more space caused relocation to a larger building. After the library closed, the building was used for USO and other community activities until about 1980. Since then the building has remained vacant.

Since the early 1990’s there were many suggestions for how the building could be used. With no buyers or plans being laid out, in January of 1992 “the Waukegan City Council surprised the community with a sudden vote to take bids for the library’s demolition.”<sup>33</sup> Members of the community, as well as people outside of it voiced their concern about the preservation of the building. Outside of the community, there were two occasions where the library was suggested as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, there was a survey done on the Carnegie Library in Waukegan in 1983, due to proposed construction of a highway. It was determined in this survey that the building was eligible for listing. During the 90’s, when the building was under risk of demolition, the Coordinator of the National Register for the State of Illinois, Ann V. Swallow, wrote to the mayor of Waukegan in 1992. Her letter stated, “it is my opinion that the Waukegan Public Library building is an excellent candidate for listing in the National Register...historically it was an important cultural institution in the community since its construction in 1902.”<sup>34</sup>

<sup>26</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, December 14, 1939.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, April 30, 1946.

<sup>29</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, October 5, 1946.

<sup>30</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, March 5, 1963.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, March 6, 1963.

<sup>33</sup>*Chicago Tribune*, May 9, 1993.

<sup>34</sup> Ann V. Swallow, letter to Mayor Haig Paravonian, February 21, 1992.

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One of figures who helped the campaign to save the library in the 1990's was the prize winning science-fiction writer and Waukegan native Ray Bradbury. He was quoted in the News-Sun stating that he would help save the library if the community wanted it to be saved. He stated "it has to be something the town wants. People must be in agreement...the building has always seemed very important to me...the library has symbolic meaning to the whole town."<sup>35</sup> While Bradbury admitted that the preservation project was entirely up to the residents of Waukegan, he wanted to make sure he could help in any way. *The Chicago Tribune* explained that "Bradbury used the Carnegie Library as a model for the library in one of his best known books, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*,"<sup>36</sup> and quoted Bradbury who stated, "Waukegan pervades all of my work, and the library especially. I'm a library-educated person. I got my education in that library until I was 13."<sup>37</sup> In 1993, the library was purchased by the Carnegie Preservation Project, Inc. The goal of the Project was to restore, clean, and bring the Carnegie back to communal use. In a newsletter from 1998 by the Carnegie Preservation Project, it explains that part of the renovations involved "the removal of suspect materials from secluded parts of the building [and demolishing] several 12-foot-tall walls that were no longer needed [from the basement of the library]."<sup>38</sup>

By 2007, the Waukegan Public Library gained local landmark status after an agreement was made between the Carnegie Preservation Project, Inc. and the City of Waukegan. This agreement protects the building from demolition, unless financially it cannot be maintained or is found to be beyond repair and structurally unsafe condition. The building is now under the ownership of the City, having sole responsibility for all costs relevant to maintaining the structure. Today, the building stands on its corner bluff at the crossroad of Sheridan and Washington awaiting long needed restoration.

### Criterion C: Architecture

The Multiple Property Document, *Illinois Carnegie Libraries* states, "To be eligible under Criterion C, a Carnegie library should demonstrate sufficient architectural integrity to convey the distinct characteristics of an architectural style...Without all or nearly all of the original materials and workmanship united in the significant design, the property does not possess the characteristics for which it is important." (Sec. FIII, P42) The Waukegan Carnegie Library was designed by the architectural firm of Normand Patton and Grant Miller in the Classical Revival Style, the most prevalent style selected for Carnegie libraries in Illinois.<sup>39</sup> Patton and Miller designed fifteen Carnegie Libraries in Illinois, and became best known for their Classical Revival style.<sup>40</sup> Characteristics of the style found in the Waukegan Public library include the Ionic columns, pilasters, stone walls, and cornice with dentils and a wide frieze band. The corner entrance of the Waukegan Public Library is also an unusual design element among

<sup>35</sup>*The Waukegan News-Sun*, March 5, 1992

<sup>36</sup>*Chicago Tribune*, March 9, 1992

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> The Journal of the Carnegie Preservation Project, Inc. *Opening Doors* (Waukegan, Illinois, Winter 1998), 3.

<sup>39</sup> For a detailed discussion about the work of Patton and Miller and of Classical Revival Carnegie Libraries in Illinois, please refer to the cover document, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document, *Illinois Carnegie Libraries*.

<sup>40</sup> Paul Kruty, "Patton and Miller: Designers of Carnegie Libraries," *Palimpsest* 64 (July/August 1983): p.114.

Waukegan Public Library  
Name of Property

Lake County, Illinois  
County and State

Classical Revival style Carnegie libraries in Illinois. Since the library has undergone very little change since its construction, it has retained its architectural features that identify it as Classical Revival and meets the registration requirements for architecture as outlined in the multiple property document.

Waukegan Public Library  
Name of Property

Lake County, Illinois  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, July 10, 1858.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, October 27, 1858.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, July 30, 1864.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, September 29, 1866.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, November 24, 1866.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, January 12, 1878.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, May 11, 1878.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, April 4, 1885.  
*Waukegan Weekly Gazette*, May 2, 1885.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, June 26, 1935.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, June 26, 1935.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, December 14, 1939.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, April 30, 1946.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, October 5, 1946.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, March 5, 1963.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, March 6, 1963.  
*Chicago Tribune*, May 9, 1993.  
*The Waukegan News-Sun*, March 5, 1992  
*Chicago Tribune*, March 9, 1992  
Ann V. Swallow, letter to Mayor Haig Paravonian, February 21, 1992.  
Gregory, Ruth W, *1953 Waukegan Public Library Annual Report: On books and reading in Waukegan from the Little Fort era to the atomic age* (Waukegan, IL, 1953).  
Jeffery D. Bruce, Statement of Effect for Carnegie Library, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Highways, October 1983.  
Kruty, Paul, "Patton and Miller: Designers of Carnegie Libraries," *Palimpsest* 64 (July/August 1983), 110-122.  
Schnell, Karen E, *Illinois Carnegie Libraries*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. 1993, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.  
The Journal of the Carnegie Preservation Project, Inc. *Opening Doors* (Waukegan, Illinois, Winter 1998).  
Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission, *Waukegan Landmarks* (Waukegan, Illinois, August 2011).

Waukegan Public Library  
Name of Property

Lake County, Illinois  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan Historical Society

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acree of Property** Less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.359783                      Longitude: -87.829315
2. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
3. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
4. Latitude:                                      Longitude:

**Or**



Waukegan Public Library  
Name of Property

Lake County, Illinois  
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**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)  
Block 16, Lot 6, Township of Waukegan, Lake Country, Illinois.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
The boundary includes the land that has historically been part of the Waukegan Public Library.

Waukegan Public Library  
Name of Property

Lake County, Illinois  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Hector B. Escobar  
organization: Graduate Student- Loyola University Chicago- History  
street & number: 2875 W. Blanchard rd.  
city or town: Waukegan state: IL zip code: 60087  
e-mail hescobar@luc.edu  
telephone: 847-704-2001  
date: 08/06/2013

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Waukegan Public Library

Name of Property

Lake County, Illinois

County and State

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Waukegan Public Library

City or Vicinity: Waukegan

County: Lake State: IL

Photographer: Hector B. Escobar

Date Photographed: March 2013

Location of Original Digital Files: #1 Old State Capitol Plaza

Number of Photographs: 8

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 8 : Sheridan Road, Entrance and western facade; camera facing slightly eastward.

2 of 8 : Entrance to structure. The columns, cornice and frieze are seen in more detail; camera facing northeast from street corner.

3 of 8 : Northeast facade, Rear of building. Bricked off window is shown; camera facing southwest.

4 of 8 : Northeast facade, boarded windows in detail; camera facing slightly westward.

5 of 8 : Interior, first floor, stack room is seen beyond the columns, original floor boards are displayed. Plaster has come off the bottom of the pillars revealing original construction material; camera facing northeast.

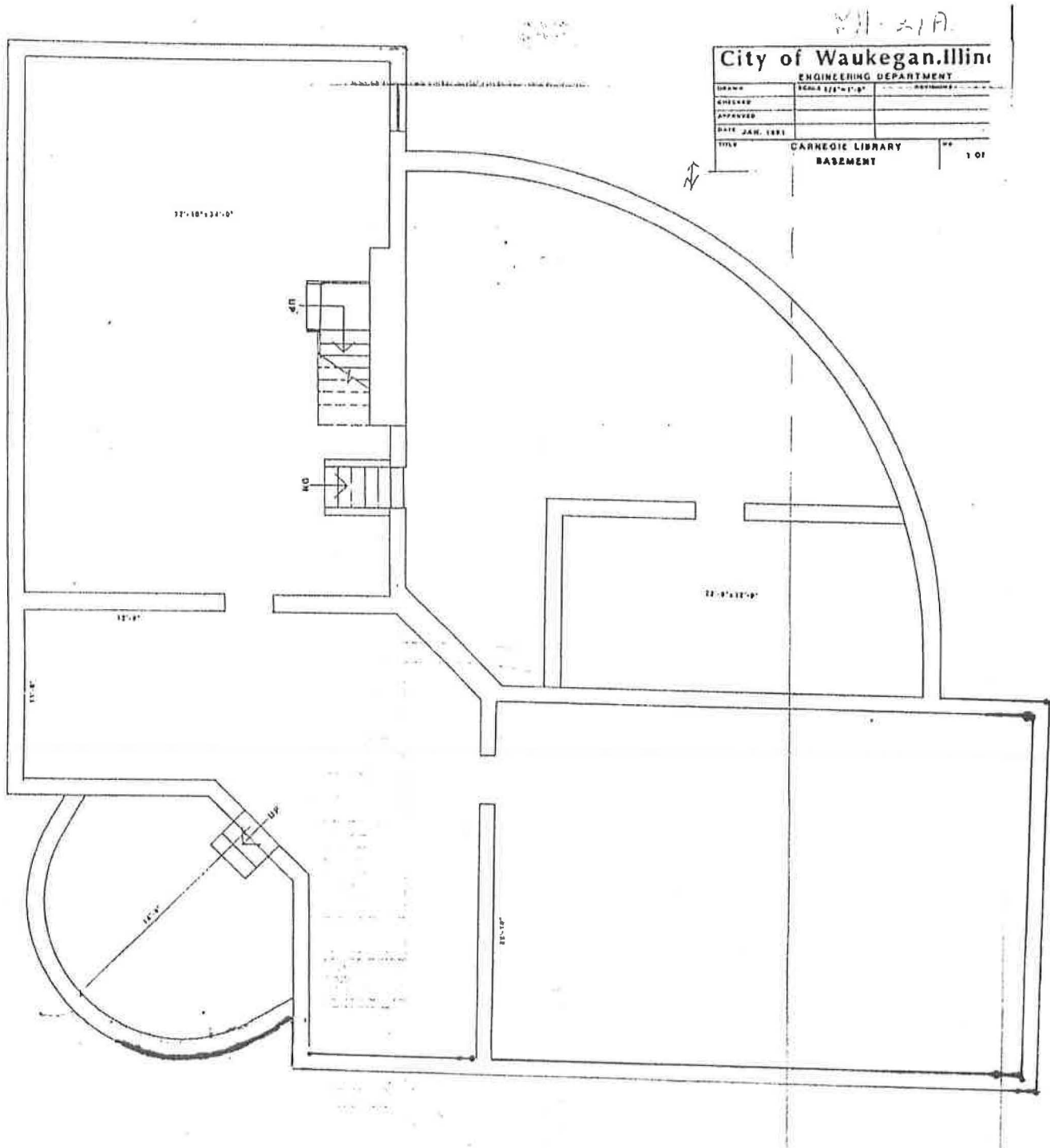
6 of 8 : Interior, first floor, view of radiating stack room and lack of library furnishings. Original window frames and sills are also shown; camera facing slightly north.

7 of 8 : Interior, first floor, view of fireplace and mantle; camera facing northeast.

8 of 8 : Interior, lower level. To the right of the stairs, wall has been removed. In the focus of the photo is the original doorframe that is still intact; camera facing west.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

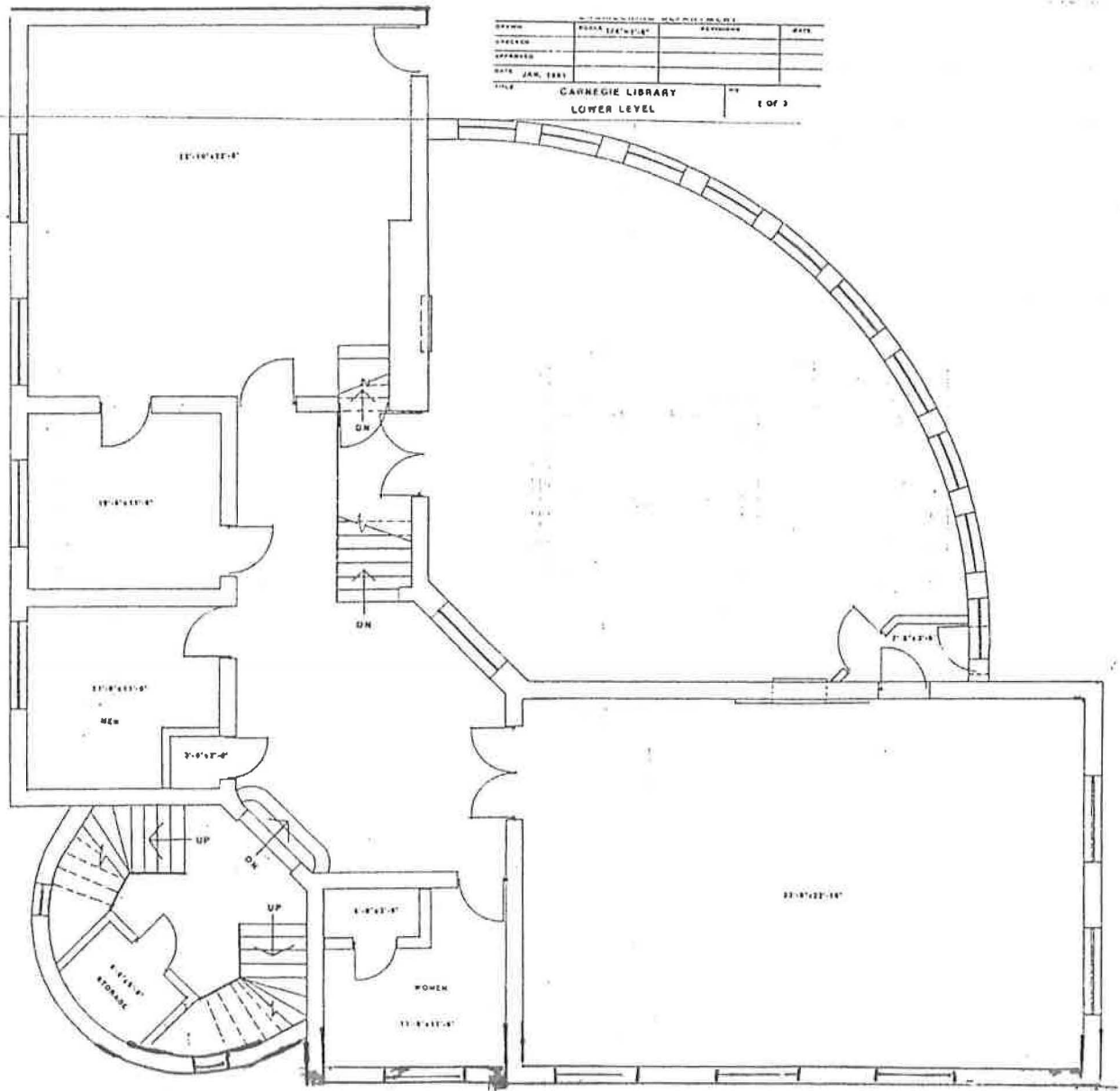
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



M.H. 21A

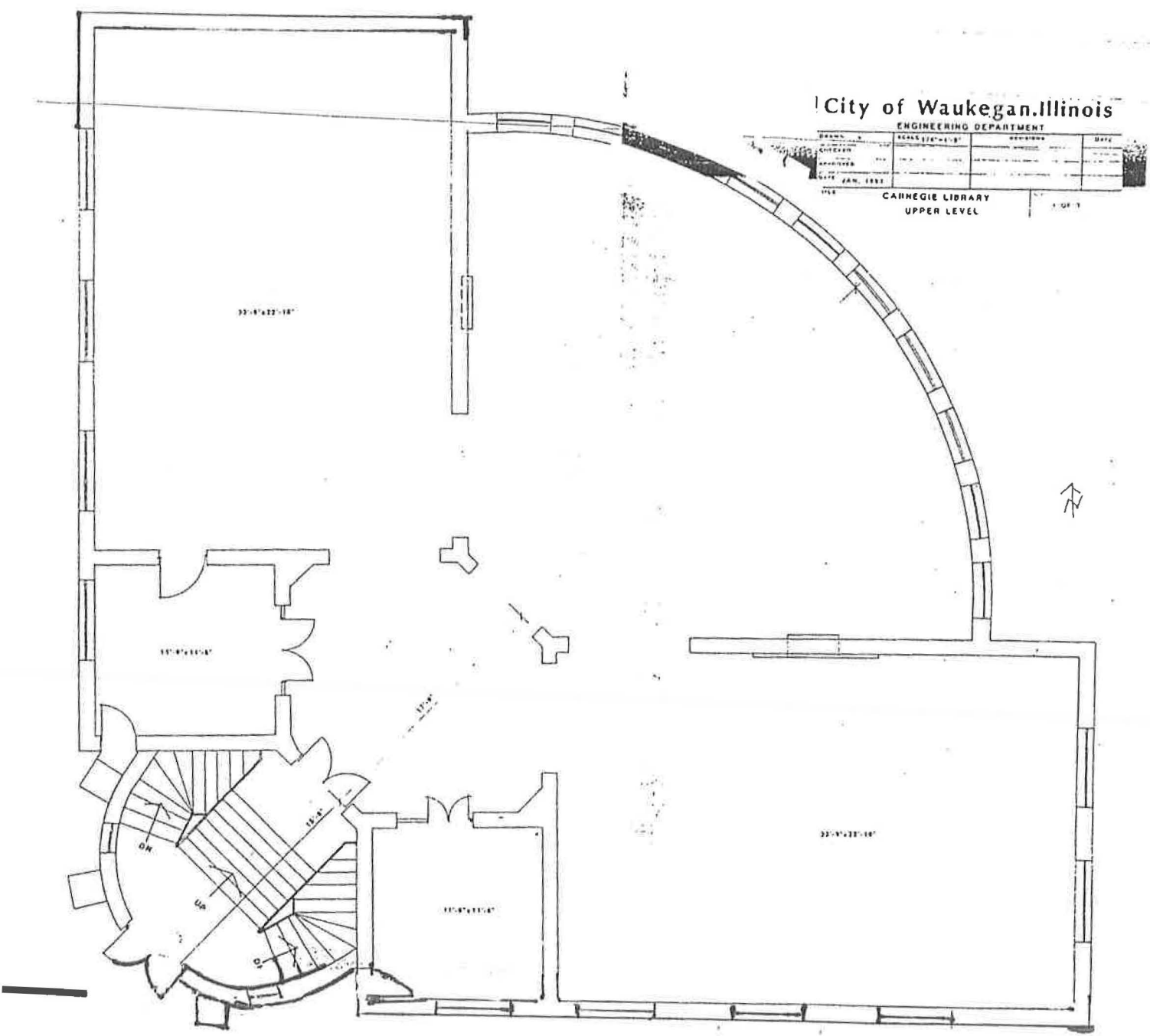
<b>City of Waukegan, Illinois</b>	
<b>ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT</b>	
DESIGNED	REVISION 1/21/1911
CHECKED	
APPROVED	
DATE	JAN. 1911
TITLE	CARNEGIE LIBRARY BASEMENT
	1 OF 1

**Waukegan Public Library Floor Plans  
Basement  
Waukegan  
Lake County, Illinois**

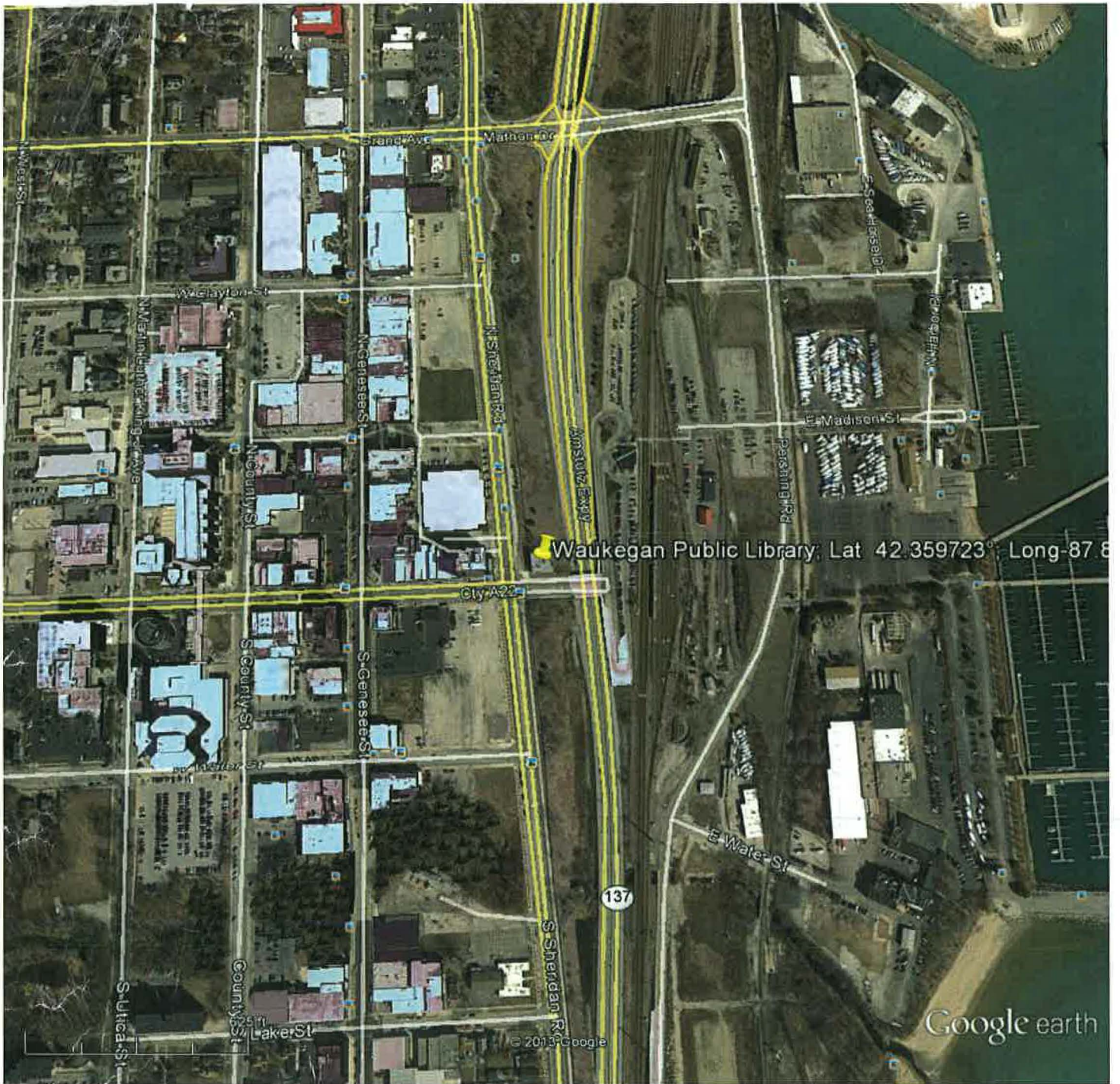


**Waukegan Public Library Floor Plans**  
**Lower Level**  
**Waukegan**  
**Lake County, Illinois**

1074-24



**Waukegan Public Library Floor Plans  
Upper Level  
Waukegan  
Lake County, Illinois**



Google earth



Waukegan Public Library  
Lat 42.359723°  
Long -87.829315°  
Lake County, IL



MUSEUM PUBLICI



Central Building

PASSAGE  
847-377-7000





WAUKEGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

909

Carnegie Building  
CIVIC NORTH













NOT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Waukegan Public Library

MULTIPLE NAME: Illinois Carnegie Libraries MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Lake

DATE RECEIVED: 11/15/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/14/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/30/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/01/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001003

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    12-31-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512 • [www.illinois-history.gov](http://www.illinois-history.gov)



November 8, 2013

Ms. Barbara Wyatt  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW Suite NC400  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed for your review are the following National Register Nomination Forms that were recommended by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

**Kickapoo Building, Peoria, Peoria County**  
**Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan, Lake County**  
**Stony Island Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago, Cook County**  
**Bush Temple of Music, Chicago, Cook County**

In addition, the proposal to relocate the **Harriet F. Rees House, Chicago, Cook County**, which was listed in the National Register in 2007, is also enclosed with a separate cover letter.

Please contact me at the address above, or by telephone at 217-785-4324. You can also email me at [andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov](mailto:andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov) if you need any additional information or clarification. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp  
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures